

THE AUSTRALIAN LIBRARY JOURNAL

CONTENTS

	Page
OUR PRESIDENT	2
OVER TO US	3
FROM THE RECORD FOR THE RECORD	4
SUBSTITUTES FOR PRINT	7
REVIEW OF LIBRARY LITERATURE	11
CONFERENCE AND ANNUAL MEETING	15
LATROBE LIBRARY	17
INSTITUTIONAL LIBRARY SERVICE IN NEW SOUTH WALES	18
LIBRARIANS OVERSEAS AND FROM OVERSEAS	20
BRANCHES AND SECTIONS	22
BOARD OF EXAMINATION	24
CALENDAR AND NOTICES	24

Vol. I No. I

Quarterly

July, 1951

THE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

*W*e take this opportunity of offering
our best wishes to
The Australian Library Journal

Its publication marks a great advance in library organization in Australia, and long may it be a source of help to every Australian.

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Our President



RT. HON. SIR JOHN G. LATHAM, G.C.M.G., M.A., LL.M., K.C.
Chief Justice of the High Court of Australia.

OVER TO US !

THE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA brings out the first issue of *The Australian Library Journal* in the Jubilee year of the Australian Commonwealth. What could be more fitting or more promising? But it is not the first or the only library journal in Australia, or even the journal of the first Australian library association. There was an Association when the Commonwealth of Australia was founded, fifty years ago, and it had a journal. Where are they now?

There is an entry for *The Library Record of Australasia* in many catalogues, with the note that closes every periodical entry in the long run, and closes so many after a short one, *ceased publication*; deceased, dead, and the Library Association of Australasia died in 1902 with its *Record*. Both were promising indeed, but performance was short lived. And another Association did not live even so long, or long enough to have a journal.

We have lived longer now than any other Australian-wide Association of the past; we shall be fourteen years on 20th August, when it will be fourteen years from the foundation of the present Association as the Australian Institute of Librarians. And in that fourteen years, while we did not get round to a journal before to-day, while we were content to publish only the proceedings of our conferences, and to fill in with office duplicated circulars and newsletters, we went from strength to strength in other ways.

None of the kinds of libraries and librarians, and none of the States, has stood apart from us under our old or our new constitution; our membership steadily rose in peace and war and in peace again, and not only rose in numbers but in the standards and the status of the library profession which we joined together in the first place to improve. We established examinations and certificates and got them recognised and sought after, as no other library association had done before ours. The Free Library Movement which worked with us got public library development on what at last appear to be firm foundations. The Carnegie Corporation of New York has given us generous support.

We laboured, but also the winds of doctrine and the tides of the times were going our way. Ancestral voices even in our midst kept saying, the time is not yet ripe, for the things we did. But the time was ripe, and the fruit grew on the tree.

Is the time ripe now for a journal, when the objects and persons of the Australian Institute of Librarians and the Free Library Movement have been united in the Library Association; for a journal that can be kept alive, not simply for the sake of having a journal of the Association, but to help in the achievement of its objects?

We hope so. Children, even brain children, are borne from hope and with hope; their birth itself is an achievement of the present and a promise of the future. But they are also hostages to fortune, who are sometimes redeemed by luck, but more often only by faith and good work.

The Journal is ours, and ours must be the faith and good work. We buy it with our subscription to the Association, and without our subscriptions neither the Journal nor the Association can be carried on. We must do the things that will be worth writing about in a library journal; those of us who write about the things we do in furtherance of the objects of the Association must come from our ranks. And we must be its readers. Let us adapt the slogan of Australia's oldest weekly: half the Association writes it, all the Association reads it.

The Library Association is not some vague and distant "they"; it is all of us, and the Journal is ours. Future issues can be like this first one, or they can be different; they can be worse and they can be better.

It is over to us.

From the Record

For the Record

Fifty years have passed since *The Library Record of Australasia*, the official organ of the Library Association of Australasia, Vol. 1, No. 1, was published in April, 1901. If the Jubilee year of an event is to be the fifty-first year after it, then this might have been the Jubilee year of the *Record*. If a Jubilee year were that following seven times seven years, as indeed it was, then this might be the Jubilee of the extinction of the *Record*, the last issue of which, Vol. 2, No. 2, came out in June, 1902. But we must say might be to both, because we can hardly be jubilant at the extinction of *The Library Record* in the second year of its life, or celebrate a jubilee of something that has not had at least forty-nine years of life. *The Record*, the Association which died with it, and yet another Association, must be our *memento mori* and objects of study in the hope that we can bring this Journal and our Association to their Jubilee, about the year 2,000.

ASSOCIATION AND AN ASSOCIATION.

Australia's first association with a library association was in 1877 when Sir Redmond Barry was in London representing the Public Library of Victoria, at the foundation of The Library Association in London. He gave an account of country library service in Australia which, at that time, in South Australia and Victoria, was certainly not inferior to country library service in Great Britain or the United States; he read a good, practical paper on library binding, and was made Senior Vice-President of the Association. For both good and ill, for both the Colonies and the Mother Country, the Library Association in London might have embraced the Colonies, but things were not worked out that way. The Colonies

formed their own associations more than once.

Barry, who died in 1880, was not a librarian by profession, though as an amateur he was at least the equal of the professionals; and Dr. Leeper, another Trustee of the Public Library of Victoria, was not one. On the 29th of November, 1894, he moved the following resolution, carried by the Trustees:

"That in view of the great advantages likely to accrue to the Public Libraries of Australasia, it is desirable that the Trustees take steps towards the foundation of a Library Association of Australasia, on lines generally similar to those of the Library Association of the United Kingdom and the American Library Association."

So there was an Intercolonial, or Australasian Library Conference, in Melbourne in 1896. Both names were used, but Australia, the Commonwealth, which some thought would include New Zealand, was a porpoise close behind them, and the outcome of the conference was the Library Association of Australasia, which held a conference in Sydney in 1898, one in Adelaide in 1900, one, the last one, in Melbourne in 1902.

"NEITHER ASSISTANCE NOR RESISTANCE."

It is significant that the Association was to be of advantage to the Public Libraries of Australasia, because the fate of successive associations is bound up with the libraries and librarians they were intended to serve, and Public Libraries then, as now, but hardly in between, did not mean only the State reference libraries. Mechanics' institutes were to be embraced, but at the first conference in Melbourne there were twenty-four delegates from libraries calling themselves "free" or "public," and

only nineteen from local institute or athenaeum libraries. And in New South Wales, in 1898, there were fifty-six "public libraries attached to municipal institutions." In 1902 the Association had three N.S.W. members, and possibly one Victorian, that we would now call special libraries.

The work of the Association was done by librarians, and particularly by the State Librarians in Victoria and New South Wales, La Touche Armstrong and H. C. L. Anderson; there were also associates who were persons "not actually connected with library administration"; and, what were expected to be its strength and to profit from it most, what we now call corporate members, the libraries themselves, the great majority being institute and free public libraries of sorts. But we read in the last issue of the *Record*, "it is somewhat disturbing to state that, outside of the State libraries, practically no support has been given to it. Possibly one library in ten has given lukewarm support by joining the Library Association. The majority of the libraries have offered neither assistance nor resistance." And Anderson said in a private letter to Armstrong, "if we cannot get a considerable accession of members at once, the *Library Record* must be discontinued for want of funds, and, as far as I am concerned, no further steps will be taken to unite the libraries of this State for their common good." In 1903 Armstrong wrote to say that his present intention was "to take no action whatever in reviving 'the Association' this year."

REFORMATION.

Then there was silence in Australia until 1926, when "a conference of officials from various libraries of the Commonwealth was convened by the Council of the Institutes' Association of South Australia . . . to consider the re-formation of the defunct Library Association." Out of this in August, 1928, came the Australian Library Association, and with it the shoe was on the other foot to some extent, and supposed to be to a greater extent than it was. The initiative, the President and the Secretary of the new Association came

from the Institutes, and there was criticism of the over-centralised State public libraries.

There was something in this, and in what Morris Miller called the British Museum cult of at least some of the State libraries, in a paper which he read to the 1928 conference, anticipating much of the post Munn-Pitt Report principles and development. But also there was some failure to realise the national importance of the State libraries' reference services, and of the educational and technical qualifications of their librarians and assistants.

And if there was not active opposition to the free public library even if it were decentralised, there was strong representation of the institute subscription library. A resolution was carried in favour of training for librarianship, though it was said that institute librarians did not need it; none was carried in favour of free libraries.

The support of the smaller and "outer" States was necessarily little more than nominal, and the prospects of an Australian association were seriously reduced when New South Wales did not form a branch. on the grounds that the Association did not sincerely or sufficiently represent the professional librarian and the free library idea. At a conference in November, 1933, there were protestations, accusations of broken undertakings and even suggestions that New South Wales should not be covered in the Survey which the Carnegie Corporation of New York was to be asked to provide.

REPORT AND RECEPTION.

The Munn-Pitt Survey of 1934 and the Report published in January, 1935, were to the effect that whilst local libraries had had too little attention and support the central State libraries had certainly not had too much, that the only hope of worthwhile local service was in free municipal libraries and in really trained librarians. But having asked for it, the Association made no comment on the Report and did not call a meeting to face the issues which it raised.

It became clearer than ever that the nature and fate of a library association were bound up with the kind of libraries

and librarians associated in it; it would have a future if they had, and all the evidence overseas and advice from overseas was that the institutes only had a past. Nevertheless, if the Association had convened a 1935 conference and done no more than receive the Report it had asked for, it might have had a future in the gradual conversion of the literary institutes. A policy of gradualness had both support and reason in Victoria, and in the Report; and New South Wales might have been drawn in to counterbalance the well-organised South Australian institute interest. But in the words of the *Record* in 1902 there was "neither assistance nor resistance," and the Free Library Movement and the Australian Institute of Librarians came into existence to make the Report something more than a seven days' wonder and to carry out its recommendations, but as the Movement's organiser put it, by "ploughing round" the literary institutes and schools of arts, not converting them. History happens, but it is also made.

DIVISION AND ADDITION.

Public organisation of the Free Library Movement was begun in the Sydney suburb of Chatswood on 26th June, 1935, and on 25th November, the centenary of Andrew Carnegie's birthday was celebrated at a meeting in the Public Library of New South Wales, at which a constitution for a State-wide movement was adopted; in the next fifteen years, organisations with the same name and similar objects came into existence in the other States, though with varying degrees of support and success. The Australian Institute of Librarians was initiated from New South Wales and was publicly constituted at Canberra in August, 1937, at a meeting in conjunction with a New Education Fellowship Conference sponsored by the Australian Council for Educational Research. It had almost unanimous support from all who could be called qualified librarians in all States, and retained it.

The object of the Free Library Movement was free public libraries, but private special libraries were necessary at the same time and their librarians were the important new element in the Institute alongside

the State, university and parliamentary librarians, rather than the new public librarians, who did not come until the Movement finally achieved its object with the actual establishment of municipal and shire libraries in the post-war period. But by 1949 it was evident that the libraries, both free public general and private special, and the trained librarians with professional status, were established sufficiently to determine the character, policy and future of an Association which would represent them, their interests, and their purpose in the community, and the Library Association of Australia is a reconstitution of the Australian Institute of Librarians, by its members, but in effect it is a continuation of that organisation of librarians and the Free Library Movement, which was a citizens' much more than a librarians' movement.

NEW PROBLEMS.

The internal conflict of the old Associations was resolved by dissolution, division, and reconstitution, when the old conflict was settled by the triumph of the free library and the trained librarian principles. But there can still be conflicts within the new Association.

At the moment the Association is the only Commonwealth-wide body representative of special librarians and special library interests. But they are not wholly reconciled with the general and public library interest. And the new public library interest, that of the local municipal and shire lending libraries, may clash with that of the older State public, academic and parliamentary libraries, somewhat as the old subscription library interest did. School libraries and librarians present their own problems of assimilation and reconciliation, and they are perhaps the largest group to which the Association can look to for support, membership and journal circulation.

If we are out of some woods, we must in the nature of things be entering others, and in the nature of things there could still be division and dissolution. Union is strength, but union cannot always be maintained by the strength of a party. It needs understanding, conciliation and even compromise.

Substitutes for Print For Office and Cataloguing Purposes

Printed documents, catalogues and catalogue cards are still the best for appearance and readability, and substitutes are substitutes. The American name near-print suggests inferiority, but obviously the substitutes must have some advantages over print, or there would not be the interest in them that there is, and so we have to ask, just what are the disadvantages of print?

PRINTING, LETTERPRESS AND OFFSET.

By print and printing we should strictly mean letter press printing in which raised letters, usually of metal, are held together in a frame or "forme," or cast together in a plate, smeared with ink and then pressed on and into paper or cardboard. This process has the disadvantages that it is comparatively costly, it cannot be done at short notice, or by comparatively unskilled labour, or in the office. Another disadvantage especially for catalogue duplication is that set up type cannot be easily or cheaply held for further possible printing; nor can it be reset by the page, instead of by the letter.

Printing in the strict sense is reproduction from "type," which is "set" from "copy," and this cannot be done photographically, or at least not so far for anything like common use. There is, however, a process which results in the appearance of print, that is the lithographic process in which the setting from copy can be done photographically and so in facsimile page for page. Until recently this process, commonly called lithographic or offset printing, had the disadvantages given above of letterpress printing, but it can be done now on an office machine, and at short notice with comparatively unskilled labour, and has therefore become one of the substitutes for printing which have the advantage over

printing that they are possible in the office and the cataloguing room, and do allow of the "master" from which the duplicating is done being kept, more or less satisfactorily, for further use.

THE TYPEWRITER.

The first office substitute for printing was typewriting. This needs no setting, but there is nothing to hold, and except for a few extra copies by means of carbon paper, multiplication of copies means repetition work. The typewriter is what it is called in some languages, a writing machine rather than a printing machine, because it does not allow of a multiplication of copies beyond a few; but it has become important in substitutes for printing as means have been found to use it for the production of "masters" from which near-print duplicating can be done on other office machines. It has become a typesetting as well as a typewriting machine.

What is still the common office typewriter has a disadvantage, that it cannot be used to write lines which are equal in length without words and letters looking unequally spaced, but this is not a serious disadvantage when the work done has not to compete with print in appearance, or on catalogue cards, and machines have been developed, mainly for the production of "masters" for further duplication, on which lines can be "justified" and the spacing varied so that it is not obvious. The forthcoming new edition of the Union Catalogue of Scientific Periodicals in Australian Libraries is being done on one of these machines, a *Varietyper*, which uses a paper ribbon which prints a sharp black, and the "varityping" is then being used as copy for offset printing. Various "fonts" of type can be used interchangeably on the *varietyper* and what is typed on it needs no further setting or proof reading when it is copied photographically for offset printing.

One further important point about the typewriter is its printing through a ribbon which carries the ink almost dry, so that there is none of the messiness of liquid or pasty ink.

The typewriter has, however, had the great disadvantage for catalogue card work that carbon copies cannot be taken through cardboard, so even when only two or three copies of a card are wanted each has to be typed separately. This set librarians off after methods of duplication quite apart from large scale duplication for central cataloguing.

MOVABLE TYPE OFFICE MACHINES.

If we regard the use of movable type as the essential feature of printing in the strict sense, which it is, then a machine in which printing is done through a ribbon but by movable type is a printing machine, and there is a machine of this sort which can be called an office machine. The make which is in use in Australia is the *Multigraph*. Movable or separate type is set in slots on a drum which prints through a ribbon on to paper or cards as the drum is rotated.

A machine of this make was used with unskilled labour during the 1939-45 War to print catalogue cards for Army Education reference libraries, with a variety of type sizes for headings, entry and tracing notes. The result is the best of all the substitutes for letterpress machine printing, and is, in fact, printing. But although setting up the type or composing may be quicker than old-fashioned hand setting, it is comparatively slow, and the type cannot be kept set up.

EMBORESSED PLATE MACHINES.

Office machines have been developed for putting the same addresses on envelopes time after time. The essential features of these machines are the printing of an address in one operation and repeated use of the same plates or masters for the same address. There are addressing machines or devices which are adaptations of either spirit or stencil duplicating discussed below, but there is also one which is like printing in using raised type, though not

in using movable type. The addresses are embossed or punched outwards on metal plates which then print through a ribbon. One make of this machine is the *Addressograph* and another the *Adrema*.

Their use for catalogue card duplication suggests itself, and the *Addressograph* has been used in America and the *Adrema* in Great Britain. (See L.A.R. 52: 113-118, April, 1950.) Because of the raised type the appearance of the impressions is like that of letterpress printing, though not quite as sharp cut, and as the ink is laid on through a ribbon there is no messiness in operation. Another advantage is that the plates can be stored and used again, and the same plate can be flattened out and have new matter punched on it. A disadvantage in the available machines is that the size of the plates and of the machine does not allow of the use of the whole length of a standard catalogue card, or even of a card's whole depth without special manipulation.

OFFICE DUPLICATORS.

What are now generally called office duplicators are machines designed to be used with the typewriter as a "typesetting" machine, and more or less by the typist, or an operator who has no more than very short time training on the particular machine. They are machines that can be adapted to catalogue card duplication; none of them are printing machines in the strict sense of printing, and only the offset or lithographic duplicator uses a process that is commonly used in the printing trade. These machines are coming to be classified as stencil, spirit and offset duplicators.

STENCIL DUPLICATORS.

For stencil duplication, letters are cut in a specially prepared sheet called a stencil by the keys of a typewriter without the ribbon interposed. Stencil duplication is now so common that most typewriters have a "stencil" or off position for the ribbon. The first stencil duplicators were "flat bed"; paper was laid flat, the stencil was laid on top and ink rolled through it, and so on with successive sheets.

Flat bed duplicators are now museum pieces, except where they may still be used

in public supported schools and libraries: most people are familiar with the rotary duplicator, and two trade names of rotary machines have come into common use for the process, for which patents seem to have expired: they are *roneo* and *mimeograph*.

The typist cannot see clearly what she is doing in cutting stencils and the inking of the duplicator may be messy; but in ease of manipulation, in the result and the number of copies that can be done from a stencil the stencil duplicator may have more all round advantage for general office work than the other two. One important advantage it has over them, in the better and dearer models, is a reasonably satisfactory mechanical feed, by which the paper is picked up and fed in by the turning of the drum, and not by a separate, and slower, hand motion. This mechanical feed is not possible, or necessary, for catalogue card duplication up to about a hundred copies, but becomes a great saving of labour in turning out, say, five hundred copies of a report of fifty leaves, which means feeding in a sheet 25,000 times if the sheets are written on one side and 50,000 if they are written on both sides. Hand-feeding to this extent becomes quite uneconomic. Apparently only one model of one make of the spirit duplicator has a mechanical feed. The office model of the offset duplicator hasn't one.

SPIRIT DUPLICATORS.

Some inks laid on suitable surfaces can be moistened and taken off on to suitable paper without smudging. The physico-chemical properties of which advantage is taken are somewhat like, if not identical with, those of lithography.

The old "hectograph" jelly or clay pad was a flat bed version of the spirit duplicator, which has been made rotary, much like the stencil process. The ink is laid on a smooth, coated paper by typing through a special "carbon" paper: this "master" is then wrapped round a drum and as this is turned round and sheets fed in, these are moistened by a drying "spirit" on a pad so that they pick up the ink from the "master." Hence the generic name, spirit duplicators.

So that the typing will come out right, and not back to front in being transferred

from one surface to another, it has to be back to front on the "master," so the typist has to put the "hectographic" carbon in so as to get a reverse image on the back of the sheet the keys are striking, and cannot see what she is typing. This is one disadvantage. Another is limited number of copies: hectograph was meant to mean a hundred, but the name expresses a hope rather than a certainty, even with the most improved rotary spirit duplicators: another is colour, the aniline inks which have the required property of not smudging are only blue. The black which is supplied is a sort of dirty grey, does not soften as easily and does not give as many copies. An advantage against stencil duplicating is the body or thickness of the reproduction; it is not usually unreadable because of thinness. But the blue colour is trying on aging eyes, and thickness begins to look like smudginess against good stencil duplicating.

The spirit duplicator is, however, the easiest, cleanest and quickest to use for short runs, and is ideal for internal use when only from half a dozen to a hundred copies are wanted. The best machine is dearer than the cheaper stencil duplicators, but much cheaper than the best. It was little known in Australia before the 1939-45 War, though a few of the German *Ormig* make were here. The American machine, the *Dittograph*, came in with the War. And since the War two British makes, the *Fordigraph* and the *Banda* have come into extensive office use, often as a supplement to a stencil duplicator. The thick appearance and colour of the type is their chief disadvantage for catalogue card reproduction.

OFFSET DUPLICATORS.

Offset printing is lithographic printing in which the image is right way round on the "stone," which is now usually a metal plate: ink is picked up from a roller and "offset" back to front on another roller from which it is picked up right way round on the paper. Offset was latest in the field of office duplicating with a rotary machine using metal plates, which could however be put into a typewriter and have lithographic ink laid on them from a special ribbon. This was a machine for which

plates could be prepared in the office rather than a handy office duplicator, and this is still true, though less so, since the introduction of paper plates or mats.

When a means of laying a lithographic surface on paper was worked out the cost of plates or mats was brought down close to that of good stencils, so that they can be economically used for the short runs which is all they will stand. The cheaper quality paper mat can be used for up to about 200 copies. But then hand-feeding becomes uneconomic for long runs, and the larger offset duplicators which have automatic fast feeds cost over £1,000 and are scarcely office duplicators. Even the smallest machines cost up to £500 now and they need far more careful and understanding, if not skilled operation, than either of the other two duplicators. On the other hand, offset duplication is nearest to print. Books are now being "set" on special typewriters with roman type and justified lines, they are being reproduced even on office offset duplicators, and they are passing through the hands of cataloguers who do not realise that they are not letterpress printed. And offset catalogue cards look nearest to print, if they are well done. Special methods have to be used for them, but these methods are not difficult. Most trouble comes with inking, in relation to the surface of the board which hasn't the choice of surfaces to suit the process which paper has.

Confusion in trade names for offset duplicators has arisen because the makers of the *Multigraph* movable type duplicator call their offset duplicator a *Multigraph-Multilith* duplicator and the compound name has to be used to avoid confusion. Another offset duplicator is the *Rotaprint*.

PHOTOGRAPHIC AND FACSIMILE REPRODUCTION.

Stencils can be cut and lithographic plates can be laid photographically, so that matter already printed, drawings and so on, can be reproduced in the office, and more cheaply than they can be put into print again from scratch. For this kind of reproduction offset duplication seems more satisfactory, or at least facilities seem more readily available for facsimile offset plates in Australia than for facsimile stencils.

Neither can be made in the office, or even in an ordinary photographic laboratory.

CATALOGUE CARD REPRODUCTION.

The special problems of catalogue card reproduction are an economical method of reproducing small runs from two to about fifty, and a means of holding type so that a card may be duplicated as needed, when additional copies of a book come into a system for which central cataloguing is being attempted.

Time saving in checking has to be taken into account, but there still seems to be nothing more economical than repetition typewriting for up to six cards, that is in effect for the needs of most libraries not attempting some form of central cataloguing. Above that number it may be economical to use some method of duplication and it may be more economical to do more than will be certainly required and even to throw some away than to attempt to store and re-use "masters" as required.

The stencil, the spirit duplicator master, the offset mat can all be used, and filed, and used again. But the stencil is not easily put on a drum again, the spirit duplicator master is not good for long runs anyway, and becomes smudgier with use, the offset mat needs a special and comparatively expensive and messy coating to keep it for further use. The embossed metal plate which is essentially intended for repeated use might be the most promising in this respect, if it were made to a cataloguing size. Movable type and stereotype printing seem out of the question in this respect, except possibly for major projects for large cumulative catalogues and periodical indexes in sheet form, because of the type and metal which is tied up, its bulk and weight and the trouble of making it ready again.

There are certainly more and better alternatives than there were some years ago, but the method of catalogue card reproduction which will be at once satisfactory in the result and cheap and easy enough in the process has not yet been discovered.

In the reproduction and multiplication of writing for other purposes the empire of letterpress printing is seriously threatened.

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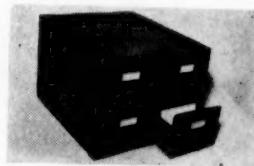


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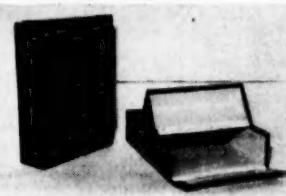
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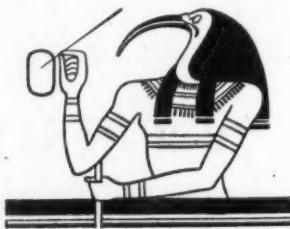
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Bottoms Up

COMPACT BOOK STORAGE:

Some suggestions toward a new methodology for the shelving of less used research material. By Fremont Rider, Librarian. The Wesleyan University Library, N.Y. Hadham Press, 1949. \$2.60.

Fremont Rider is best known, and perhaps only known in Australia for his very compact combination of the book, the whole book, and the catalogue entry, on what is now well known as the microcard, which he detailed in *The Scholar and the future of the research library*, 1944. But a list of "some other books" by him in the one under review shows that he has written others on librarianship, a biography of Melvil Dewey, in the *American library pioneers series*, a book on international government, plays, fiction, books on economics, one on psychical research, and guide books. It might be said of him that there is nothing he has not touched, but it must also be said that he has adorned all that he has touched, and that touched is hardly the right word for his "analysis" and "synthesis."

This book is in two parts, the first being an "analysis" of the factors of book storage, particularly of less used material, and the second a "synthesis" or constructive proposal which he has actually applied in the Wesleyan University Library.

The first part alone is value for money, for its discussion of what he calls "Rube Goldberg" which we might call "Heath Robinson," inventions of shelving that is carried past the reader, and of lifts that carry readers vertically past the shelves and so on; and for its discussion of roller stacks and hinged presses which are in actual use.

His own principal proposal is one for systematically shelving book horizontally with their foreedges on the shelf and with their bottoms out to the aisle. He shows how much space this saves by statistics and

illustration; he then goes on to meet the obvious objections, and raises more by his consequent proposal to "crop" some books to provide an even lettering surface.

His secondary proposal, which will also stand by itself, is for extensive boxing of unbound material instead of binding, with the use of ninety sizes of boxes to get over the well-known waste of space by boxes bigger than their contents. Even then he says "boxed storage is not quite as efficient as bottom cropped storage because the boxes take up a certain amount of the precious shelf space we are trying to save."

In the actual result in his own library he says that of the material stored on edge, two-fifths could be marked as it was, one-fifth was "bottom cropped," and two-fifths were boxed.

Boxing is even preferred to binding by bibliophiles, but we can imagine what some would say should be done to Rider for his "bottom cropping," even of public documents, or even for his marking of edges without cropping. But as he at least implies librarianship is one thing and bibliophily another, and Rider shows himself again to be a free thinker in the best sense of the words.

Counter Attack

INFORMATION SERVICES:

Their organisation and administration, by R. L. Collison; foreword by Lionel R. McColvin. James Clarke & Co. Ltd., London, 1950. 6/-.

This book of ninety-one pages in all, with an index, nineteen illustrations and chapter "bibliographies," is perhaps more intentionally a counter-attack than it appears; it certainly begins with a sortie from an ancient citadel.

We read:—

"For several years I have sought to discover the meaning of the word 'documentation,' to ascertain what exactly was done by documentalists, documen-

"tators and documentationists. It has apparently nothing to do with documents, for these are the material for archivists. I have heard them defined as "amateur librarians" but cannot accept this as adequate description because some of those who practice the art or craft of documentation are not amateurs, many are certainly not librarians. With this riddle unsolved it is hard to be faced with yet another problem: what is an "information officer" and what are "information services". I have always regarded a library as an information service, but is an information service necessarily a library? If so, an information officer should obviously be a librarian. Unfortunately for one with a simple logical mind like my own, he appears sometimes to be a documentator, sometimes a Public Relations Officer, and as the latter is yet another of these undefined functionaries, my confusion becomes more confounded. Consequently, when the other day I sat on a committee the terms of reference of which were to formulate recommended scales of salaries for information officers, I was delighted when a capable chairman laid it down, unequivocally, that the man whose job it was to assemble the material in which information is embodied, to arrange it and make it useful to those who wanted to use it was a librarian and must have the training, experience and background of a librarian, and that the man who used it, who publicised and public related is wasn't.

"This is an attitude we must respect. All the nonsense about information officers and documentators and what not must often arise only from one cause—that people who are incapable of doing the job of librarianship, or who are unwilling to learn to do it properly, want to justify their inefficiency as librarians by calling themselves something which cannot be assessed, as can librarianship, in the light of accepted standards of professional experience and training. So it will be a good thing for everyone concerned if we revert to the old phases "special libraries" and "special librarianship." They are phrases open to criti-

"cism because some of our most special librarians work in general libraries and many of our general libraries employ in their special departments special librarians—but at least we remember that they are librarians."

That sounds like Lionel R. McColvin, who has been called Big Ben, not only because he is Chief Librarian in the City of Westminster. And it is Lionel R. McColvin. Some who disagree with him on other things will agree wholeheartedly with him on that; some others may not like it so well, but the F.I.D.—U.D.C. balloon still gets plenty of hot air and those who go up with it must expect a burst or two from the ground.

McColvin goes on to reprove his "colleague Collison" for "a stupid title for an otherwise blameless book," and it is stupid in so far as it may well lose its author some readers. He himself refers to the fact that Kaiser, one of the most important and most neglected writers on subject indexing, was called in to reorganise information or bibliographical research services at the Nobel explosive factory at Ardeer. He does not point out that Kaiser has been neglected, partly because he was wilful in departing from accepted word uses, as well as partly because, in Holmstrom's words, "unlike the decimal classification," that is U.D.C. for so-called indexing, "no propaganda is conducted in favour of the Kaiser system."

Collison goes on to say, "The principles of sound information work have mostly been evolved by trained librarians, and belated example of the recognition of the desirability of employing trained librarians in information work is to be seen in the increasing tendency to appoint trained librarians in charge of government information services."

What he has written might be called Organisation of library services for information or Library organisation for information service. He hasn't much to say on cataloguing and classification in detail, but he talks sense in pointing out the practical advantages of the decimal classifications, whatever they may lack in logic of arrangement compared with the Library of Congress classification or that of Bliss. Otherwise it seems a good practical account of

processes, under such headings as Serials, Vertical file, Equipment for pamphlets, Mechanical aids.

It is a change from the pseudo science, the loose and emotional use of words, the unindexed undocumented propaganda that has gone under the name of Documentation in Great Britain. Most of this is nonsense about a supposed superiority of figures over words for the expression of ideas, concepts, or notions, which is mere jargon for subjects, and Mr. Collison, perhaps quite wisely in his short practical manual has not attempted to separate the grain from the intolerable amount of FID-BSIB-BSI chaff about U.D.C. What he has done shows that the general subject of special librarianship can be treated with commonsense in straightforward English, and there is no reason to suppose that classification and indexing could not be similarly treated.

The Corporation, The Whole Corporation

A BRIEF FOR CORPORATION LIBRARIES: A guide for their operation and management. Ed. by A. C. Mitchill, Librarian, Public Service Gas & Electric Corporation, Newark, New Jersey. New York, Special Libraries Association, 1949. \$1.75.

This American book is very much like Collison's British book, reviewed above, in scope, though shorter in length. In 63 pages in all, Organisation and administration, Routine procedure, and Services are covered. And as with Collison's book the title may be questioned, but may be acceptable to us if we substitute our more used word Company for Corporation. It is a manual for "*the special organisation library* serving all informational needs of a corporation . . . in which the library staff and clientele are both employees of . . . the same organisation; as distinct from . . . the *special subject library* which may be a semi-public, independent or departmental library, serving students, profes-

sional groups, members or general public, on a given subject."

A fairly long quotation on the place of the library in organisation may be useful to special librarians in Australia. It certainly could have been written about Australia.

"The place of the library in relation to the other departments of the corporation is of prime importance and one which should be considered objectively. The history of many special libraries reveals that in large organisations they had their origins in small collections which developed within departments or divisions. No thought of a library as an entity was in the minds of those who originally fostered these collections; rather, the need for information in carrying out the daily work necessitated the acquisition of books, periodicals, newspapers and special services which would furnish the required facts and figures. As the collection grew and its value was demonstrated, or, just as frequently, as its deficiencies became apparent, it was realised that a well-managed library would be a worthwhile investment. Thus libraries were organised and, in many instances, continued under the supervision and guidance of the departments which had sponsored them. In corporations which maintained a research division, the library was frequently its protege. Some of these departmental libraries, after sufficient time had elapsed for them to develop their own procedures and to prove themselves adequate to serve the entire institution, were given departmental status under the supervision of a senior official.

The library which is subordinated to another department is frequently limited in scope and service. Its collection is guided, unconsciously perhaps, by the interests and opinions of the supervising head. This often results in a preponderance of books of historical and theoretical nature if the library is subject to the supervision of the research division, or in many documents concerned with industries and corporation material if the credit manager is the one who has the final word on what is purchased.

Although there are advantages which accrue from close association with operating divisions, ideally, the special library should be a separate entity, independent of any one department."

Mutual Understanding

PUBLIC LIBRARY EXTENSION, by Lionel R. McColvin, City Librarian of Westminster, Honorary Secretary of the Library Association (of the United Kingdom). United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation, Paris, 1950. 200 fr. or 60c.

McColvin of Great Britain rivals Rider of America in an ability to turn out a succession of well written books. But McColvin sticks more to the library last than Rider, and is not so much concerned with technical detail. He deals in principles, remarkably well and clearly argued considering the speed at which he travels and the countries he visits. It is only occasionally that the expected conclusions do not seem to follow from his premises.

This latest of his, if it is his latest, not of course counting his foreword to the book reviewed just above, has a foreword by the Director-General of Unesco, the Mexican Jaime Torres Bodet. And no doubt he wrote it on a pressing invitation from Bodet because there can be few now as well equipped to do it.

In his introduction McColvin says what is meant by extension. It is not the extension of library work from books to other things. It is "the extension of . . . services so that they reach more and more people." Some attention is given to what may be distinguished as promotion, that is to the persuasion of peoples and governments to establish libraries, but most of the book is taken up with the extension of services from the central building of an established library especially to "small communities and sparsely populated areas" by means of centres or deposit stations, travelling libraries, book vans or bookmobiles, and so on.

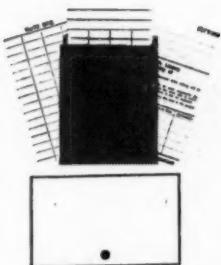
He is emphatic that satisfactory services must be public provided, open to the public and free, that subscription libraries should not be subsidised, because money will be wasted, and an inadequate type of library service may be strengthened "which can never play the same, full, fruitful and varied role in the life of the community." He is also emphatic in exploding "a heresy that he has encountered more than once on his travels, i.e., that it is a good idea to start library services by providing books for children . . . it is manifestly useless to teach children to use books if there are no libraries for them to use when they grow up." He encountered this heresy in his travels in Australia, where there are still States inclined to it, and even vested interests in it, as well as in subscription libraries.

The book is anonymous in so far as no countries are named as providing examples, which has good reason in one published by an international body for international use. The excellent illustrations are, however, acknowledged to libraries and agencies in nine or ten countries, and a National Library Service to which reference is made more than once is obviously New Zealand's. Australia can be read more certainly between the lines in his warnings against what not to do, such as continuing support to literary institutes and schools of arts and giving exclusive support to children's libraries.

In dealing with bookmobiles he points out that "nothing associated with librarianship has ever caught the public imagination like . . . the library on wheels . . . to many the travelling library has become the answer to every prayer, the solution of every problem . . . faced with such attitudes we must be realistic and dispassionate." And he goes on to distinguish the mobile branch, as a substitute for a fixed staffed branch; the country van, taking the place of deposit stations or centres with voluntary assistants; the exhibition van, from which branch librarians and deposit station volunteers select stock; and what is no more than a library's own de-



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livery van for its branches and centres. He hardly reaches any hard and fast conclusions, perhaps because it is impossible to do so, but the distinctions between types of mobile service are important and he gives some useful data. Australian country librarians and library committees may find his discussion of travelling libraries, and the actual specifications at the end of the book the most useful part of it for them.

One of his final general conclusions is "that there must be the fullest, frankest exchange of experience and ideals between librarians and the governing bodies of the libraries of the nations of the world." He relates this to the improvement of library service, but it is also a proper conclusion for any Unesco publication, since the purpose of Unesco is mutual understanding in the interests of peace. He goes straight on to say "Rivalry between nations may in some matters be undesirable but in others it is the leaven of civilisation." But there can be rivalry, with or without mutual understanding, and rivalry itself may not be mutual; it may be one-sided antagonism. In matters of the most terrible significance there is rivalry in the world to-day without mutual understanding, and in librarianship are there not signs in some quarters of a one-sided rivalry, if rivalry is not too soft a word for antagonism without emulation, without the fresh and full exchange and understanding that there was fifty years ago? BNB was rushed out in iron curtain rivalry without even Empire consultation.

In contributing to the work of such bodies as Unesco there is a tendency for the more advanced to think that it is all for the other fellow, the backward fellow. We don't need it, or perhaps we don't need all of it. But it may be well to examine it all thoroughly to see what might be applied at home and remember the tag to the ancient parables, *de te fabula?*

Conference and Annual Meeting

The conference to be held on 2nd, 3rd, 4th July will be the seventh conference since the foundation of the Australian Institute of Librarians in 1937. After the foundation meeting in Canberra in that year conferences were held in Sydney, 1938, Melbourne, 1939, Adelaide, 1940, Canberra, 1941, Hobart, 1946, and again in Sydney, 1947. The forthcoming conference will be the second in Melbourne and the first of the Library Association of Australia under that name.

The year is the Jubilee year of the Commonwealth and a centenary year in Victoria. As a part of its celebrations and as a memorial the Government of Victoria is laying the foundation stone of a wing of the Public Library of Victoria, which will be known as the LaTrobe Library and devoted to the history and archives of the State. Members of the Association attending the conference will be the guests of the Government of Victoria at the ceremony and at a conversazione on the same day, Monday, 2nd July.

The Institute and earlier conferences were associated with the movement for local free libraries which followed on the Munn-Pitt Survey and Report of 1934-35. Other themes, however, were not neglected; archives, for example, were discussed at the conference in Adelaide in 1940, and it might be said that the present Australian movement for the preservation of archives distinct from other historical material dated from that conference; library co-operation was the theme of the conference at Canberra in the following year. The reconstitution of the Institute as an association on the pattern of earlier associations in Australia and the older associations of Great Britain and America followed on the success of the movement for local free libraries, so far in four States out of six; and the theme of this conference is "The New Public Library," the reality which was only an ideal for earlier conferences.

This is the theme of the conference and papers read at general meetings will be re-

lated to it. But there will also be opportunities for meetings of members according to other interests. The constitution now provides for sections of the association, a Special Libraries Section, and so on. The formal constitution of sections is still proceeding, but arrangements are being made for meetings of those who are especially interested in Special Libraries, Archives and School and Children's Libraries.

The Annual Meeting of the Association and meetings of its General Council and of its Board of Examination will also be held during the conference. Ideally so much should not be crowded into the same time, and particularly as so many members have conflicting interests and responsibilities. But Australian geographical conditions do not make it easy to hold meetings of people from all six States and Capital Territory. Long distances have to be travelled, sometimes five hundred miles or more, even by members in the State in which the conference is held, and expenses are therefore high, so that advantage must be taken of one meeting to hold others.

The Constitution requires an Annual Meeting of the Association, and of its General Council. The business of the Board of Examination, which is more detailed and voluminous than that of the Council, makes at least one meeting a year highly desirable, and if both the General Council and the Board of Examination could meet quarterly both their members and their secretaries would be saved a complicated correspondence. But the cost of quarterly meetings would be prohibitive.

The Constitution does not provide for a conference, annually or otherwise. This is not because it was not expected that conferences on matters of Association interest should or would not be held, but because they are an activity, like a Journal, rather

than part of the Constitution of an Association, and the only question is not whether conferences should be held but when they should be held.

There could be an annual General Council meeting, with an annual meeting, *pro forma*, held at the same time and place, attended mainly by members resident in or near the place of meeting, without a conference. This was done from 1942 to 1945, and in 1948 and 1949, when there were no conferences. It is not suggested that conferences should be as irregular in the future, as war and transition made them in the past, but it has been suggested that Conference might be held only every second year.

Councillors and Board of Examination members having committed themselves to attend their meetings find it easy to attend a conference about the same time, or if not easy, at least without much additional expenditure of money or time. Things are not so easy for ordinary members in one way, but in another they can enjoy a conference better because they are freer to do so. There may also be questions as to whether an Association which is comparatively small in numbers can produce a sufficient variety of talent for annual conferences. The question generally is one to which consideration might well be given in the branches.

One possibility is that of a general Conference every second year and meetings of those sections which cared to organise them in alternate years.

It is expected that proceedings of the forthcoming Conferences, as of earlier ones, will be published. Now that there is a Journal they could be published in some way as a supplement to it or in the same size. Opinion on this might be expressed at the Conference, in Council or at the Annual Meeting.

The LaTrobe Library



CHARLES JOSEPH LATROBE
Lieutenant-Governor of Victoria.

One hundred years ago, the State of Victoria achieved its independence and the privilege of responsible government. This is, therefore, the State's centenary year and, to mark the occasion, the Government has decided to erect the LaTrobe Library as part of the Public Library of Victoria.

This idea was first brought forward early in 1950 by the committee appointed to arrange a fitting centenary programme. It was felt that to spend any considerable sum of money on entertainments and fetes of various kinds, which would leave no enduring memorial, would be unworthy of our times. At Professor R. M. Crawford's suggestion, therefore, a proposal was made that a suitable library to house the great collection of Australiana, now scattered through various parts of the Public Library of Victoria, should be built. The Centenary Committee received the idea with acclaim and the successive State Premiers, Mr. Hollway and Mr. McDonald, approved

and provided official authority for the project to proceed in the planning stage. Naturally the Public Library Trustees welcomed the idea with much satisfaction as they envisaged the establishment of a truly Australian library of great significance and importance.

It is proposed that the building arise on the northern front of the present great block of buildings which include the Public Library. It will thus appropriately face on LaTrobe Street and, centred on the Great Dome of the Reading Room, will also face squarely into Bowen Place, the heart of the Melbourne Technical College. Plans are being prepared for a building with basement and three storeys, to be 180 feet in length, 40 feet wide and of suitable height to carry on the line of the present McAllan Wing and neighbouring buildings. While the front face will probably be simple and modern in form, the back of the building, on the southern side, will be almost entirely of glass, thus admitting a maximum of soft and glare-free light for reading and working among the old books and papers which the Library will contain. Provision is to be made for an Exhibition Room, General and Research Reading Rooms, a large Inquiry or Bibliographical Hall, accommodation for meetings of related societies and visiting groups, adequate working space, staff rooms and, of course, as much stack space as the area will permit. Direct passages between the Reference Library and the LaTrobe Library will be available on several floors, so that access to the former's 40,000 bound volumes of newspapers and over four million official documents, now preserved in its basements, will be simple and convenient.

Coinciding with the Library Association's meeting in Melbourne, the setting of the LaTrobe Library's foundation stone will be performed by the Hon. the Premier of Victoria on 2nd July. It is hoped that this will be an earnest of the shape of

things to come and that, without delay, the planning will be completed and the building begin to arise. The LaTrobe Library is to commemorate the courage and initiative of the pioneers; if they, at a time when prices were high, material was scarce and labour almost unobtainable could yet engage in extensive building

operations which included the Public Library and the University, it is to be hoped that we of the present generation can do no less.

C. A. McCALLUM,
*Chief Librarian,
Public Library of Victoria.*

Institutional Library Service in New South Wales

JEAN F. ARNOT

Head Cataloguer

Public Library of New South Wales

In 1949, at the request of the New South Wales Public Service Board and under the direction of the State Librarian, a survey was made by the writer, assisted by Miss Joan Tighe, Librarian of the Health Department, of the existing provision of books for the inmates of State Government institutions. These consist of mental hospitals, State hospitals, prisons, child welfare institutions and aboriginal homes and schools. A scheme was prepared for co-ordinated library services by trained librarians, or under their direction, for each type of institution under the jurisdiction of the various departments, viz., Health, Prisons, Child Welfare and the Aborigines' Welfare Board. In the course of the survey, which took eight months, preparatory work was done in the mental hospitals and prisons. Thousands of useless volumes were discarded and all remaining stocks were recatalogued and reclassified and borrowing systems set up. The scheme required the immediate appointment of five additional library officers, three to be added to the Health Department's Technical Library staff of two, one to the Child Welfare Department's staff of one and the other for the Prisons Department, hitherto without any trained library staff. With

the possible exception of the Prisons librarian, all of these officers were to be seconded from the State Library, as are other departmental librarians, and they were to develop the scheme under my general supervision and direction. The appointments have been made and the special service to aboriginal children will be given direct from the State Library.

In the institutions under the Health Department, the hospital library service under the supervision of Miss Tighe, has been commenced at Parramatta and Gladesville Mental Hospitals and the Broughton Hall Psychiatric Clinic. In these hospitals pleasant library rooms have been set aside and those patients who are well enough visit the library to browse and to select their own reading, while books and magazines are taken to patients well enough to read, but who are unable to leave their wards. Specially designed book trolleys are being made to facilitate this side of the work. Great care has been taken in the choice of books for mental patients, and bright, attractive covers are preserved in order to stimulate the desire to read. Plio-film covers, similar to ones which I saw in use in public libraries in America, are being used to great advantage.

Through an arrangement with the Prisons Department, these are being made in the prisons at a nominal cost and will be available for use in all institutional libraries. The whole new field of bibliotherapy is being opened up. Skilled staff with patience, time and a good stock of books, working in close contact with the medical and nursing staff, should be able to help very considerably in the rehabilitation of the mentally sick. If successful in these three hospitals, gradually libraries along similar lines will be established in all other mental hospitals in the metropolitan and country areas.

In the three State hospitals at Lidcombe, Liverpool and Newington recreational reading is being provided for the patients, most of whom are old people. Good stocks are being built up, library rooms are being made attractive and a ward service is being organised. With the help of patient labour, one librarian is in charge of these three hospitals.

In the hospitals for mentally defective children at Newcastle, Stockton and Peat and Milson Islands, carefully chosen books have been forwarded to the teachers for use among their patients.

In the State's two T.B. hospitals at Waterfall and Randwick there are good recreational library services maintained by welfare organisations. Help will be given to these if and when necessary.

Throughout the hospital library service book-buying, processing and cataloguing are done centrally, and a union catalogue is kept at head office.

In each of the State's prisons, the existing stocks of old books have been overhauled and new volumes purchased, a suitable room has been set aside for a library and a prisoner selected to act as a librarian. For the first time in the history of New South Wales, prisoners are visiting their library to choose their own books. If further books are needed they may be borrowed for them from the Country Reference Section of the State Library. Eventually there will be a central reference library for the use of prisoners throughout the State, similar to the one at Wakefield Prison in England. This will be known as the W. J. Mackay Memorial Library, and will

be housed at the State Penitentiary at Long Bay. The late W. J. Mackay was Superintendent of Police and was keenly interested in the rehabilitation of prisoners. The money for the establishment of this Library was raised as a memorial to him. This library, as well as the oversight and co-ordination of the library services in the individual gaols, will be in the care of the trained Prisons Department Librarian. He is a specially selected prison warden with long experience and the necessary educational qualifications, who at present is attending the State Library School and getting practical experience in cataloguing under my care. As in the case of the hospital library service all buying, processing and cataloguing is done centrally and a union catalogue is kept at Head Office. As well as affording recreation for the prisoners, the library services which have already commenced and as planned, should play a very important part in the educational programme recently commenced by the New South Wales Prisons Department.

In the various homes under the care of the Child Welfare Department, the librarians are reorganising existing book collections, which on the whole are fairly good, and purchasing new stock to provide books suitable to the type of child in each institution. The stock will not become static in any one place as in the past, but will be co-ordinated in such a way that regular exchanges will provide fresh reading matter at frequent intervals. Guided reading, especially for delinquent and backward children, will be an important part of the work in these institutions.

The final group under institutional care are the aboriginal children in the State's two homes at Cootamundra and Kinchela, near Kempsey, and in the various schools on the reserves and stations administered by the Aborigines' Welfare Board. A book service is being organised by the State Library and if it proves successful it may be extended to the adult population on the reserves and stations.

The collections of worn out and unsuitable books found in most of the institutions prior to the inauguration of the new scheme, showed to what a low level a so-called library can fall, when there is no

trained supervision and only inmate care, and when gift material is relied upon for most of the stock. Common to all institutions the new plan provides for trained staff, specially chosen and attractive books and rooms to be used solely for library purposes. When fully operating, the new library services will open up for the inmates of the New South Wales Government institutions a whole new field of interest, delight and help through reading, which should assist very materially in the rehabilitation of the adults and the development of the children.

In June, 1949, I visited a mental hospital at Warlingham Park, Surrey, England, where I saw patients using the delight-

ful library there. It was an experience which I shall never forget and which has proved an inspiration to me. Recently at Parramatta Mental Hospital I witnessed a similar scene, when in the newly decorated library room I watched patients, under the guidance of their librarian, choosing their own books from the well stocked shelves of bright, attractive and interesting volumes. I had visited this same room in Parramatta months before when the walls and woodwork were drab in colour and when the shelves were filled with dusty, dull old books, which apparently were never read. The contrast was striking and the result of the new library service in this one institution augurs well for the success of the whole scheme.

Librarians Overseas and From Overseas

Never before have so many Australian librarians been overseas at the same time. There have been more abroad or going abroad in 1950-51 on scholarships than before, and far far more paying their expenses and working their way to meet expenses and to get library experience, or hoping to do so.

Naturally they go to Great Britain, and whilst they are welcome it is not easy for all of them to get library positions. At any time now there must be up to twenty or more Australian librarians in Great Britain, most of them comparatively junior and inexperienced in Australia, so that they are learners rather than experienced hands when they get home to England; add perhaps twice as many again from other Dominions and it can be seen that with the best will in the world all of them cannot get temporary positions, especially if they want these to fit in with touring. So great has been the embarrassment that the

Library Association in Great Britain has printed a warning which is also a very helpful explanation of conditions.

At least so far as library experience is concerned most of them would like to go to Canada and the United States as well, but there the cost and scarcity of dollars are a problem. Few, if any, of those who are not awarded some kind of scholarship or grant in North America can get dollars for either love or money. It is a pity that all those who go overseas cannot make a round tour because, as Lionel McColvin says in his book on Public library extension just done for UNESCO: "There must be the fullest, frankest exchange of experience and ideals between librarians, and the governing bodies of the libraries of the nations of the world." And there is nothing like personal meeting for full and frank exchange.

At present Mr. Collier, State Librarian in Tasmania, is visiting both Great Britain and America as a guest of the British Council and the Carnegie Corporation of New York, and Mr. White, the Commonwealth National Librarian, is recently returned, having been the first Australian librarian to receive a grant under the provisions of the American Mundt Act. Miss Searle, of the Public Library of South Australia, was chosen whilst she was in Great Britain to be the Australian representative at the Unesco Seminar on Libraries and Adult Education at Malmo, in Sweden, and she is now in America getting further library experience. Miss Ramsay, of the Ballarat Public Library, Miss Fountain, who has resigned from the librarianship of the Snowy Mountains Hydro-Electric Authority, and Miss Corner, of the New South Wales Public Library, are taking up scholarships this year in American library schools, and no doubt all three will find their way to Great Britain after completing their studies in America.

Librarians are not only going overseas, they are coming from overseas, and some are staying permanently. We have American Information librarians with us again in the persons of Mrs. Kirwan in Sydney and Miss Le May in Melbourne. These are, of course, on a tour of duty here as American citizens and will return to America eventually. We hope they will not go too soon and that others will succeed them. Perhaps, too, other Americans will come to gain experience and to give us the benefit of their experience on the United States Educational Foundation which is looking after the expenditure of the lend-lease balance in Australia.

British librarians are coming to find and take up positions in Australian libraries. Mr. Martin, who came out to Tasmania first from the Edinburgh Public Libraries, is now Librarian at Toowoomba in Queensland. Mr. Billot, novelist as well as librarian, organised and is in charge of the Public Library at Box Hill, Melbourne. Mr. Milburn and Mr. Bonny came by way of South Africa. Mr. Milburn is Librarian at the University of Tasmania in succession to Mr. Clarke, now in London representing the National Uni-

versity, and Mr. Bonny, author of the textbook on Book Selection, has succeeded Mr. Martin in the Tasmanian State Library. Miss Chadderton, who was in the Derbyshire County Library, is also in the Tasmanian State Library. Mr. Stephens is secretary to the Melbourne Athenaeum. All these are chartered librarians or fellows on the register of the Library Association in Great Britain; one junior from an English library, Miss House, is in the Library of the Sydney Technical College; another, Mr. Harris, is on the staff of the Public Library of New South Wales, and another, Miss Reed, is attending the Library School in Sydney.

Some men and women who did not come out from Great Britain as librarians have been trained in Australia; for example, Mr. Churm and Miss Callaghan, who went to the Library School in Sydney. Mr. Churm is now Librarian at Marrickville in Sydney, in succession to Mr. Sing, who has returned to his home state, Victoria, to be librarian at Port Melbourne; and Miss Callaghan is on the Library Board staff in New South Wales.

The appointment of British librarians to senior positions in Australia should do something to dispel the idea that we are Americanised in Australia, and do not wish to learn from British experience. We want our own Australian librarians to learn where they can overseas, and we believe that they can learn something in at least all the English-speaking countries. But it is surely obvious that we have not closed any doors to British librarianship in the persons of associates and fellows of the British Library Association.

So far we do not know of any librarians with other European qualifications coming into our libraries, but several non-British New Australians have taken or are taking courses in librarianship or have been appointed to junior positions in libraries, mainly in New South Wales. The Public Library of New South Wales and State departmental libraries have now eleven British and six other New Australians on their professional and clerical staffs.

BRANCHES & SECTIONS

The Library Association of Australia is primarily an Australia-wide body and its members are firstly members of the Association, elected by its General Council, and only secondly members of the Branches and Sections for which the Association's constitution provides. But the Association depends for much of its use and value to its members on the Branches and the Sections.

The Association administers its Examination and Certification system from its head office through its Board of Examination and its Registrar; it publishes this Journal from its head office, and it holds annual meetings and conferences. But otherwise members can only get together and act in their branches, and they can only pursue specialised interests in the sections.

The six State Branches, and the Australian Capital Territory Branch have been established since the foundation of the Association as the Institute in 1937. The Sections are a new constitutional provision and so far only one Section, an Archives Section, has been formally established. But other Sections are in process of establishment, and there have been Special Librarians, Municipal Librarians, and Children's and School Librarians' Groups or Committees organised and active in one or two Branches for some time.

Some of the Branches and some of these Committees and Groups have published news sheets. How far should or can this Australian library journal take the place of separate Branch and Section publications?

On first thought it seemed obvious and easy to gather and publish Branch and Section news; the temporary Editor wrote to Branch Secretaries for it; he pointed out that it would not be possible to publish personal news that was not of general interest, and asked for news of library interest in addition to news of Branch activities in a strict sense; Branch secretaries did what was asked of them without delay and the temporary Editor sat down to sort it out to fill the three to four pages he

had allowed. Only then did he realise that it was not as easy as it looked.

There is Branch news in the strict sense; the following are the officers of a Branch, so many meetings were held, addresses were given on the following topics, a film was shown, there was a visit to so and so, and an annual dinner or Christmas party.

There is news of members' movements: Mr. X has left the Y Library to take charge of Z, and Mr. W has been promoted in his place; Miss A has gone to England and Miss B has been appointed in her place, and so on.

All of it may be presumed to be of local or Branch interest, but to what extent can an Australian journal be a medium of communication to Branch members as such, in seven different Branches? Much of it is of interstate interest. It is topical or typical, even when names of persons and places mean little outside the Branch.

The Public Library Committee of the N.S.W. Branch has held a meeting of those interested in a training course for Children's Libraries, and one on an industrial award for municipal librarians; its Special Libraries Committee organised a meeting on methods of duplicating catalogue cards at which demonstrations of different machines were given; its School and Children's Library Committee organised a one-day conference on 19th January of eighty librarians, teachers and others on the Library in the primary school.

But is the Editor to select, and if so how much from each of seven Branches? And is he to rewrite it into some sort of narrative, or print some of the "notes" which he received as he received them.

Then there is news of library activities which is not news of a Branch or its members, except in so far as a library is a corporate member. Much of this is of interstate interest. Victoria, South Australia and Queensland are having Jubilee trains and the State Libraries are sending exhibits and officers with them. The long established children's reference library in the

Public Library of South Australia is now a free lending library for children. The Public Library of South Australia organises documentary film showings in its lecture room, with expert speakers; for example, C. P. Mountford speaking on his Arnhem Land film. The Commonwealth National Library has published its first catalogue of 16 m.m. film. What was originally the N.S.W. Documentary Film Committee is now the N.S.W. Film Council, which is to co-ordinate the use of films by Government Departments as well as circulate them to the public. The State Librarian is the Council's Executive Member, and a library officer is seconded as a film cataloguer.

Twenty-one new positions have been created on the staff of the Public Library of Victoria; a research staff has been established and five officers are now engaged on archives. The Commonwealth National Library's Archives division "has almost completed the first systematic survey of the accumulated records of Government Departments since 1901 in Canberra and six State capitals. More than 200,000 cubic feet of valuable records are being destroyed and schedules prepared to guide Departments in the future disposal programme."

"An important event in the A.C.T. library world was the transfer to Canberra of the main section of the Australian National University Library"; but it is also of importance to the outer world, or isn't it? The Melbourne University Library has moved into its new temporary extension.

In Queensland the Rockhampton Junior Municipal Library, the Atherton Public Library and the Toowoomba Municipal Library have been opened, and a Local Authorities' Association representative has been appointed to the Library Board of Queensland. Subsidies paid to municipalities in Victoria for 1950-51 amounted to £61,800, including £10,000 for establishment grants to rural libraries; this amount was divided between forty-two municipalities, and approximately 35 per cent. of the population of Victoria are now receiving new public library service. In New South Wales £36,942 was spent on subsidies for 1949-50 under the State

Library Act, the libraries themselves spending £122,164. Thirty-eight per cent. of the population of New South Wales was then receiving new public library service.

In Victoria and New South Wales trained librarians are now being appointed to all Teachers' College Libraries, but whilst those in Victoria are teachers those in New South Wales are librarians from the State Library.

All this is good news, but should it come as occasional Branch news? Much of it would be more usefully presented systematically as Reference, University and College, School and Children's, Municipal and Shire, Special Library, Archives news, annually, or half-yearly or quarterly, and for Australia as a whole: in other words as Section news.

It looks as if Branch news should be restricted to the activities of each Branch as an organisation, and that news of the different kinds of libraries and librarians should be reported as Section news. Even without formal establishment a Section, for example one for cataloguers and classifiers, could have a reporter, with sub-reporters in each Branch. On these conditions space might be allotted to each Branch and Section, to be used at the discretion of Branch and Section reporters, but subject to editing for the usual reasons, and to prevent waste of space through overlapping.

Space which could be allowed for news would not be enough for the discussion of technical matters of interest to Sections. Most of these are, however, of some general interest and could be discussed in contributed articles: for example, articles on the methods of book selection for university libraries, the relations between ordinary reference work and special bibliographical research in general reference libraries, central cataloguing for public libraries and for special libraries. If contributions are forthcoming it should be quite possible to issue the Journal six times a year or ten or twelve, instead of four. And there is always the possibility of issuing bulletins or monographs supplementary to the Journal.

BOARD OF EXAMINATION

NOTICES.

The Journal will be the medium of Association examination and certification notices. Student members and others interested should watch for notices under this heading. Failure to read a notice in the Journal, for example of a closing date for entries for an examination, will not be accepted as an excuse for a failure to comply with any of the Board's regulations or requirements.

EXAMINATION RESULTS.

The 1951 examinations will have been completed by the time this first issue of the Journal comes out. The results will be published in the next issue; if they are completed earlier they will be sent to candidates directly.

ADMISSION OF BRITISH LIBRARIANS.

The constitution now provides as follows:—

"4.5. By resolution of the General Council persons and bodies with membership in another library, association or association of librarians or with qualifications in librarianship certified by another body may be elected to membership in or be qualified or certified by this Association in such kind and manner and under such conditions as shall be set out in the resolution and published by the Board of Examination, Certification and Registration."

And the General Council has resolved "that persons who have qualified by examination for registration as associates of the Library Association in Great Britain and for registration by it as chartered librarians, may be elected to professional membership in the Library Association of Australia without further examination."

This resolution is hereby published by the Board of Examination, Certificate and Registration.

So far four librarians have been elected to professional membership under it. Previously the examinations taken by some British librarians were accepted in lieu of those required for the Institute's Qualifying certificate in terms of the Board's regulations. British librarians are being admitted to membership without examination following a reciprocal arrangement made with the Library Association in Great Britain.

PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION.

Candidates will no longer be accepted for the Association's Preliminary Examination, whether they are in library work or not, unless they are qualified for matriculation in an Australian university or have an examination equivalent acceptable to the Board such as a High School Leaving Certificate. Employing authorities should note, and persons who wish to sit for the Preliminary Examination in 1952 and are not at present qualified should endeavour to qualify for matriculation by taking a high school leaving certificate or a matriculation examination in the meantime.

CALENDAR & NOTICES

July 2nd-4th: Association Conference.

July, 4th, 9.30 a.m.: Annual Meeting.

August 6th-11th: N.S.W. Children's Book Week Exhibition, Public Library, Macquarie Street, Sydney.

September 30th: *By-law 2.2*.—Representative Councillors shall be elected and the Honorary General Secretary advised in writing of their election not later than the last day of September.

Notices of events of library interest should be sent to the Editor.

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to
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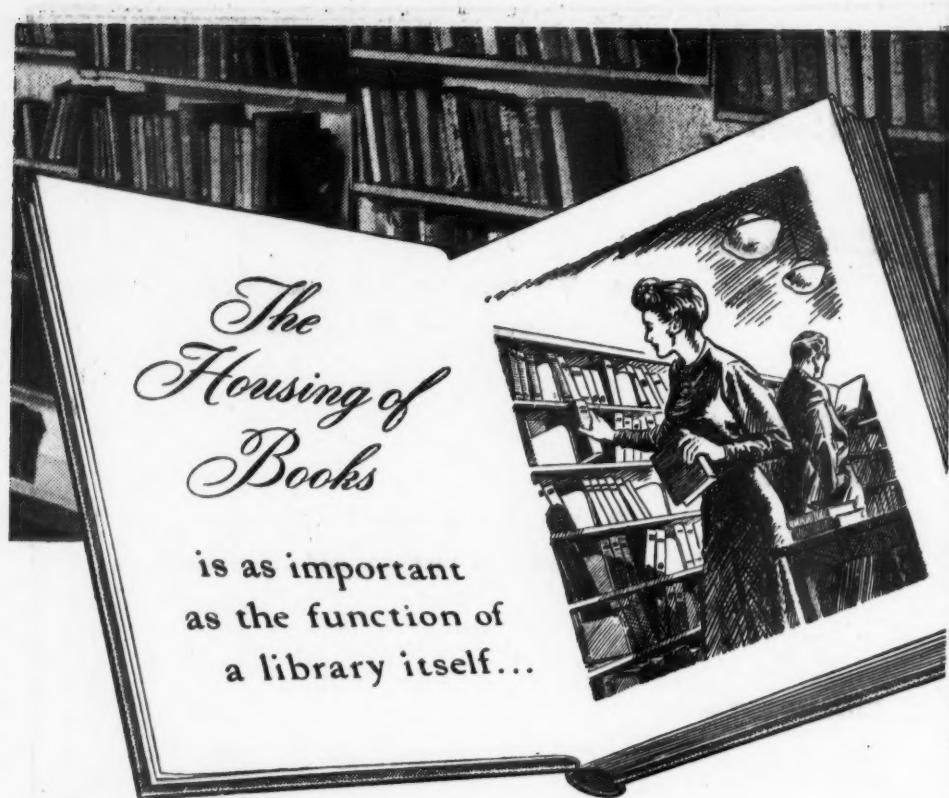
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